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Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

Algeria:* draft resolution

Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

The General Assembly,

Recalling the recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, held in Vancouver, Canada, in 1976,[1] which formed the basis for national action and international cooperation in the field of human settlements,

Recalling also the Habitat Agenda[2] and the Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements[3] as the main outcomes of the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), held in 1996, which established the twin goals of adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development in an urbanizing world, and adopted a global plan of action to attain those goals,

Recalling further relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda and human settlements,

Deeply concerned that the progress made in meeting and even surpassing Millennium Development Goal 7, target 11, has not been sufficient to counter the growth of slums in the developing world,

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

[1] *Report of Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, Vancouver, 31 May-11 June 1976* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.IV.7 and corrigendum), chap. II.

[2] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3-14 June 1996* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.IV.6), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[3] Ibid., annex I.

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Acknowledging that, while significant progress has been made in implementing the Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements and the twin goals of the Habitat Agenda, there are emerging challenges that have greatly increased in significance, such as unprecedented urban population growth in the developing world, the generation of significant levels of greenhouse gases by cities, the adverse effects of climate change on cities, including the increased frequency and intensity of natural disasters, the growing prevalence of civil conflicts, insecurity and crime affecting urban areas, and increasing social and economic exclusion and inequality,

Recognizing that these challenges may have consequences for the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals, other internationally agreed development goals and sustainable development, as well as negative impacts on housing, infrastructure, basic services and the quality of life in cities, and that the urban poor, especially people living in vulnerable situations, including women and children, will be among those most affected by these impacts,

Recognizing also that the ongoing discussions on cities as engines of economic growth and on responding to climate change should not eclipse the fact that current urban development paradigms are failing to address basic human rights in terms of security of tenure and access to water, sanitation and electricity,

Underlining that, in view of the current rapid urbanization process, the development and promotion of adequate urban infrastructure and basic services, as well as effective urban planning and design, are of utmost importance for the creation of socially inclusive, economically prosperous and energy-efficient cities that maximize the benefits of agglomeration economies, minimize the demand for urban mobility and transport and provide the conditions necessary for job creation and urban economic growth,

Recognizing that the major urban changes currently taking place also provide an opportunity to revisit the global urban agenda from a future-oriented perspective and to enhance political commitment towards sustainable urban development by promoting effective strategies that encompass the economic, social and environmental pillars of sustainable development, within the context of an integrated and balanced approach,

Bearing in mind the need to review the continuing relevance to sustainable urban development of the Habitat Agenda, the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium[4] and other internationally agreed development goals relevant to human settlements, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[5] the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development[6] and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),[7] as well as the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want",[8]

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[4] Resolution S-25/2, annex.

[5] Resolution 55/2.

[6] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[7] Ibid., resolution 2, annex.

[8] Resolution 66/288, annex.

Noting the ongoing review of the governance structure of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), which aims to improve its transparency, accountability, efficiency and effectiveness,

Recalling its resolution 64/207 of 21 December 2009, by which it took note of the recommendation made by the Governing Council of UN-Habitat in its resolution 22/1 of 3 April 2009[9] and, having considered the question of convening in 2016 a third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development (Habitat III), requested the Secretary-General to prepare a report on that question, in collaboration with the Governing Council, for consideration by the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session,

Recalling also its resolution 66/207 of 22 December 2011, by which it decided to convene in 2016, in line with the bidecennial cycle (1976, 1996 and 2016), a third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development (Habitat III) to reinvigorate the global commitment to sustainable urbanization that should focus on the implementation of a "New Urban Agenda", which should build on the Habitat Agenda, the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium and the relevant internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, and the outcomes of other major United Nations conferences and summits, and by which it decided to consider before the end of 2012 the scope, modalities, format and organization of the third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development (Habitat III), in a most efficient and effective manner,

Recalling further its invitation to the Secretary-General to appoint the Executive Director of UN-Habitat to serve as Secretary-General of the third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development and to act as focal point on behalf of the United Nations system,

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda[10] and on the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat);[11]

2. *Reaffirms its decision* to convene the third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development (Habitat III) at the summit level in the first half of 2016 for a duration of no more than five days, and in this regard accepts with gratitude the generous offer of the Government of [ ] to host the summit in [ ] 2016;

3. *Welcomes* the appointment by the Secretary-General of the Executive Director of UN-Habitat to serve as Secretary-General of the third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development and to act as focal point on behalf of the United Nations system;

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[9] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 8* (A/64/8), annex I, sect. B.

[10] See A/67/316.

[11] A/67/263.

4. *Decides* that the conference will be called the "World Summit on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III)", that it will be organized at the highest possible level, including Heads of State and Government or other high-level representatives, and that its theme will be "Sustainable urban development: the future of urbanization";

5. *Also decides* to establish a preparatory committee for the World Summit, which will be open to all States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies, with the participation of the European Union in its capacity as observer, Habitat Agenda partners, including local authorities, and members of other organizations of the United Nations system, including funds and programmes;

6. *Further decides* that the World Summit should focus on the identification of accomplishments, new challenges, opportunities and areas where further efforts are needed through the implementation of a new urban agenda that builds on the principles and gains achieved through the Habitat Agenda,[2] the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium[4] and the relevant internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration,[5] the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development[6] and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation,[7] and the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want",[8] and on action-oriented decisions relevant to those areas, and that should result in renewed political commitment to and support for sustainable urban development and housing, consistent with, inter alia, the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities;

7. *Decides* to integrate into the preparatory process for the World Summit the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, in particular those elements that relate to sustainable cities and human settlements;

8. *Also decides* that the World Summit will result in a concise and focused political document that will ensure a balanced integration of the three pillars of sustainable development while effectively addressing poverty and simultaneously harnessing the economic development potential of cities;

9. *Encourages* effective contributions from, and the active participation of, all national and local governments and other Habitat Agenda partners at all stages of the preparatory process;

10. *Decides* that the Preparatory Committee for the World Summit shall hold an organizational meeting and three sessions as follows:

(a) The organizational meeting of the Preparatory Committee will be held in 2013, back to back with the twenty-fourth session of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat;

(b) The first session of the Preparatory Committee will be held in 2014, after the seventh session of the World Urban Forum;

(c) The second session of the Preparatory Committee will be held in 2015, back to back with the twenty-fifth session of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat;

(d) The third and final session of the Preparatory Committee, at which Member States are to conclude negotiations on the draft outcome document, will be held in 2016, prior to the World Summit;

11. *Also decides* that the Preparatory Committee shall undertake a comprehensive review and assessment of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium and the relevant internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, and the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, with the documentation being prepared by the Secretary-General in collaboration with relevant international organizations on the basis of the results of national assessments and regional preparatory meetings, as well as contributions by Habitat Agenda partners;

12. *Further decides* that the Preparatory Committee should:

(a) Have a common approach to support regional and subregional preparatory meetings, to be held in conjunction with meetings of regional and subregional intergovernmental bodies, wherever possible;

(b) Invite the President of the General Assembly to draw up a list of representatives of other relevant intergovernmental organizations who may participate in the World Summit, taking into account the principle of equitable geographical representation, and to submit the list to Member States for consideration on a non-objection basis in accordance with past practice;

(c) Invite the President of the General Assembly to draw up a list of representatives of relevant non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council who may participate in the World Summit, and to submit the list to Member States for consideration on a non-objection basis in accordance with past practice;

(d) Propose a provisional agenda for the World Summit on the basis of the results of the preparatory activities carried out at the local, national, subregional, regional and international levels, taking into account also the input of Habitat Agenda partners;

(e) Propose rules and procedures for the participation of representatives of Habitat Agenda partners in the World Summit, taking into account the rules and procedures applied at the Habitat II Conference;

(f) Undertake any other functions that may be required as part of the preparatory process;

13. *Decides* that, at its organizational meeting to be held in 2013, the Preparatory Committee will:

(a) Elect, from among all States, a Bureau composed of ten members, with two representatives from each of the geographical groups, one of whom would be elected Chair and the others Vice-Chairs, and one of whom would also act as the Rapporteur;

(b) Consider progress in preparatory activities carried out at the local, national, subregional, regional and international levels, as well as by Habitat Agenda partners;

(c) Decide, taking into account the provisions of paragraph 10 above, on the specific dates of the future sessions of the Preparatory Committee;

(d) Consider a process for setting the agenda and determining possible sub-themes for the World Summit in a timely manner;

14. *Also decides* that the concise and focused political document prepared by the Preparatory Committee should be submitted for further consideration and adoption by the World Summit and that the document should reinvigorate, at the highest political level, the global commitment to partnership and a higher level of international solidarity and to the accelerated implementation of the new urban agenda;

15. *Stresses* that the preparatory meetings and the World Summit itself should be transparent and provide for the effective participation of and input from Governments and regional and international organizations, including financial institutions, and Habitat Agenda partners, including local authorities;

16. *Decides* to establish a trust fund for the World Summit, urges international and bilateral donors and countries in a position to do so to support the preparations for the bidecennial review through voluntary contributions to the trust fund and to support the participation of representatives of developing countries in the regional and international preparatory process and the World Summit itself, and encourages voluntary contributions to support the participation of Habitat Agenda partners from developing countries in the regional and international preparatory processes and the World Summit itself;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to extend support to the Executive Director of UN-Habitat as the Secretary-General of the World Summit and head of its secretariat;

18. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to provide all appropriate support to the work of the preparatory process and the World Summit, ensuring inter-agency participation and coherence as well as the efficient use of resources;

19. *Encourages* the United Nations development system to support, as appropriate, national preparations for the World Summit, upon the request of national authorities;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a progress report on the state of preparations for the World Summit for consideration by the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session;

21. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-eighth session the item entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)";

22. *Also decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-eighth session an item entitled "Progress report on the state of preparations for the World Summit on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III)".